



Montana Public Service Commission
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May 10, 2006

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**PSC TO HOLD HEARING ON NORTHWESTERN ENERGY'S
DECEMBER 2005 ELECTRIC DEFAULT SUPPLY PROCUREMENT PLAN**

The state Public Service Commission will hold a public hearing May 17 in Helena to obtain comments on NorthWestern Energy's electricity default supply procurement plan.

The hearing will be held at 9:30 a.m. in the PSC's Bollinger Room, 1701 Prospect Avenue.

NorthWestern Energy must procure electricity supply to meet the needs of its current and future customers. The purpose of the procurement plan is to demonstrate, consistent with statutory and PSC guidelines, how NorthWestern plans to meet its obligation. The PSC is required to review the plan, take public comment, and identify concerns with the plan and ways to remedy them.

The company's plan may be viewed at the offices of the PSC or the Montana Consumer Counsel. Additionally, the plan is available at a web site created by NorthWestern:

www.montanaenergyforum.com/plan.html.

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